

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

7 February 1951

TO : Comptroller

FROM : Deputy Comptroller

SUBJECT: Claims for Loss of Personal Property

1. In accordance with para. [REDACTED] and revised Agency delegations of authority, there is forwarded herewith to you a series of claims submitted by Agency Personnel for the loss of personal property occurring during a forced evacuation of [REDACTED].

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2. I believe there are two principle points to consider in approving, disapproving or modifying these claims. They are as follows:

a. Only one of the individuals has certified that he has not been and is not being reimbursed for the loss of the items from any other source. Inasmuch as any one of these individuals may possibly have insurance on his personal articles, such a certification or negative statement as to insurance should be required in every case before actual payment is made.

b. The principle determination appears to be whether the articles of personal property whose loss is claimed were "reasonable, useful, necessary, or proper under the attendant circumstances." This determination is particularly pertinent in connection with the losses of [REDACTED]

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3. In the case of [REDACTED], the only question appears to be a reasonableness of the amount of personal clothing lost. In terms of a military situation it might appear that subject individual had a great quantity of unnecessary and unreasonable personal clothing. However, it should be realized that at the time subject individual went to his overseas post, hostilities were not anticipated. I further do not feel that the Agency should question the judgment of an individual as to the reasonableness of his clothing requirements.

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4. In the case of [REDACTED] the principle question would appear to involve the reasonableness of the quantities of photographic equipment alleged to have been lost by the individual. However,

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it must be remembered that subject individual was permanently stationed in [REDACTED] with his family and accordingly must be deemed authorized to have with him his entire personal and household effects. Since photography appears to have been the individual's hobby, I again do not believe the Agency should question this point.

5. In conclusion, I believe that the Agency should apply sound standards of appraisal of losses of this nature but should adopt the basic position that the individuals are honest in submitting their claims and that subject only to Agency decision as to the reasonableness of the individual's judgment in having specific articles at the place of loss and in not carrying personal insurance thereon, the Agency should accept claims without bickering thereon.

[REDACTED]
Deputy Comptroller

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